

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, GH, US, UR

SUBJ: NEWSPAPER ALLEGES US ESPIONAGE IN GHANA

1. UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "THE AMERICANS: WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE," BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "THE PUNCH" FOR JULY 6 ALLEGES THAT NEW "MYSTERY STRUCTURE" BEING BUILT BEHIND CHANCERY TO HOUSE EMERGENCY GENERATOR MAY IN FACT BE AN "ARMORY FOR POWERFUL TRANSMITTERS, COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS AND INTERRUPTION GADGETS." THE ARTICLE (COPY POUCHED AF/W) INCLUDES TWO FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHANCERY AND NEW BUILDING AND CITES FACT THAT AMERICANS WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION AS EVIDENCE OF NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES: "AMERICANS HAVE EARNED INCONTESTABLE REPUTATION FOR INSTALLATION OF INGENIOUS SOPHISTICATED BUGGING EQUIPMENT FOR MONITORING DECISIONS AT MEETINGS WITHIN EDIFICES OF COMPLEX DESIGN AND OF SENSITIVE NATURE RELATING TO SECURITY...WE HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT AMERICA HAS STOPPED DROPPING AGENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED OBSOLETE BY JIMMY CARTER'S CIA BOSS ADMIRAL STANFIELD TURNER IN FAVOR OF SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE, ELECTRONIC INTERCEPTS, MICROWAVE LISTENING DEVICES AND OFTEN SPACE AGE TOOLS FOR GATHERING INFORMATION.

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WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES CAN AND DO OPERATE IN TUNNELS." ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT SINCE U.S. IS NOW A VERY GOOD FRIEND TO THIS COUNTRY, IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THE SIMPLE QUESTION: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, AMERICAN?"

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO FIRM EVIDENCE
TO LINK ARTICLE WITH POSSIBLE SOVIET CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, "THE PUNCH" HAS
REPUTATION FOR BEING GHANAIAAN NEWSPAPER MOST
ACCESSIBLE TO SOVIET PLACEMENT AND WE WOULD NOT BE
LEAST BIT SURPRISED IF THIS ARTICLE WERE AUTHORED
BY SOVIET EMBASSY IN ACCRA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED
THAT "THE PUNCH" IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT JOURNAL
IN GHANA.
HOLMES

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NNN

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